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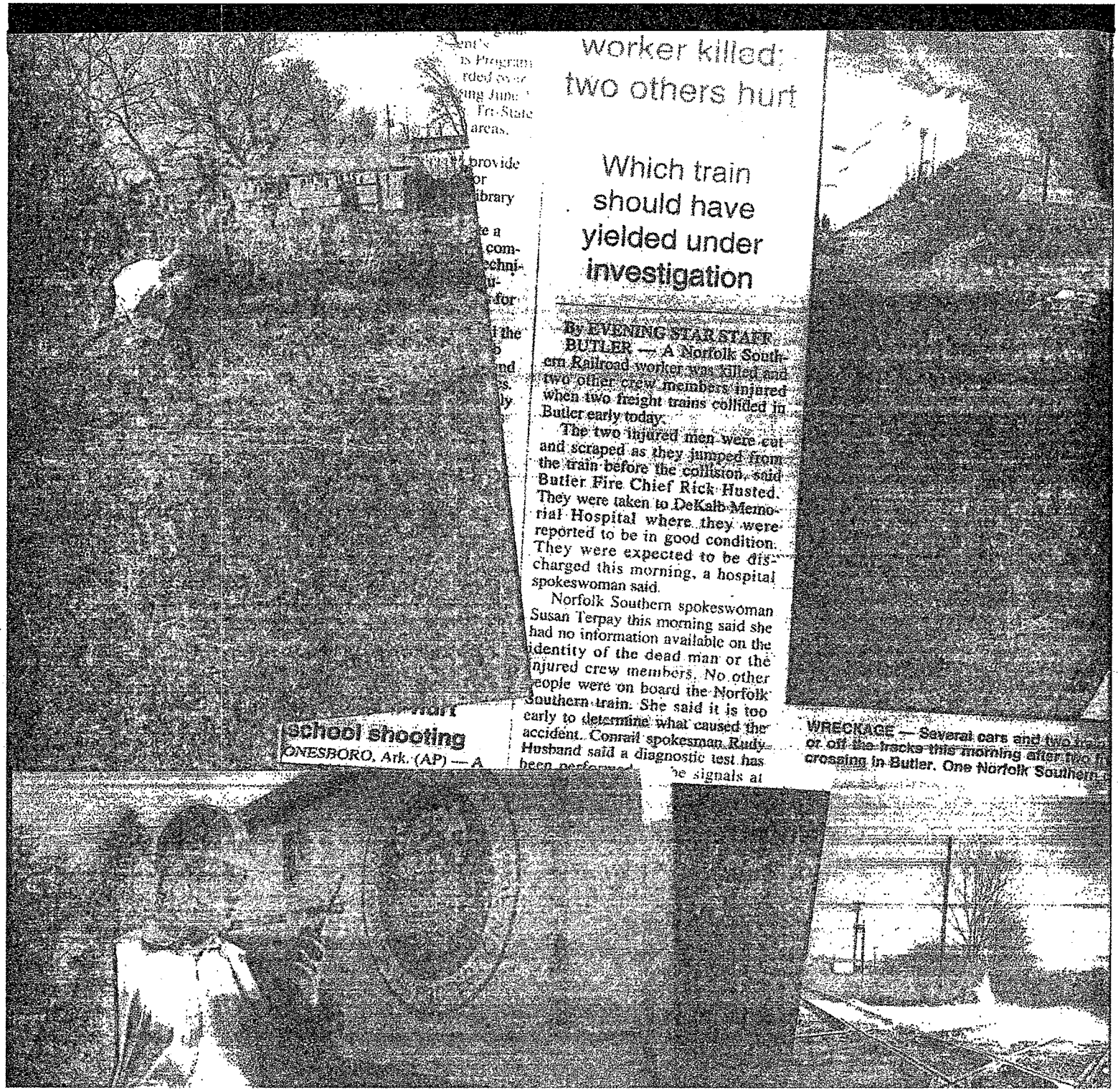
www.epa.gov/superfund

EPA

The EPA Emergency Response and Removal Program

Over Two Decades of Protecting Human Health and the Environment



worker killed; two others hurt

Which train should have yielded under investigation

By EVENING STAR STAFF

BUTLER — A Norfolk Southern Railroad worker was killed and two other crew members injured when two freight trains collided in Butler early today.

The two injured men were cut and scraped as they jumped from the train before the collision, said Butler Fire Chief Rick Husted. They were taken to DeKalb Memorial Hospital where they were reported to be in good condition. They were expected to be discharged this morning, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Norfolk Southern spokeswoman Susan Terpay this morning said she had no information available on the identity of the dead man or the injured crew members. No other people were on board the Norfolk Southern train. She said it is too early to determine what caused the accident. Conrail spokesman Rudy Husband said a diagnostic test has been performed [illegible] signals at

school shooting

ONESBORO, Ark. (AP) — A

WRECKAGE — Several cars and two [illegible] or off the tracks this morning after two fr[illegible] crossing in Butler. One Norfolk Southern

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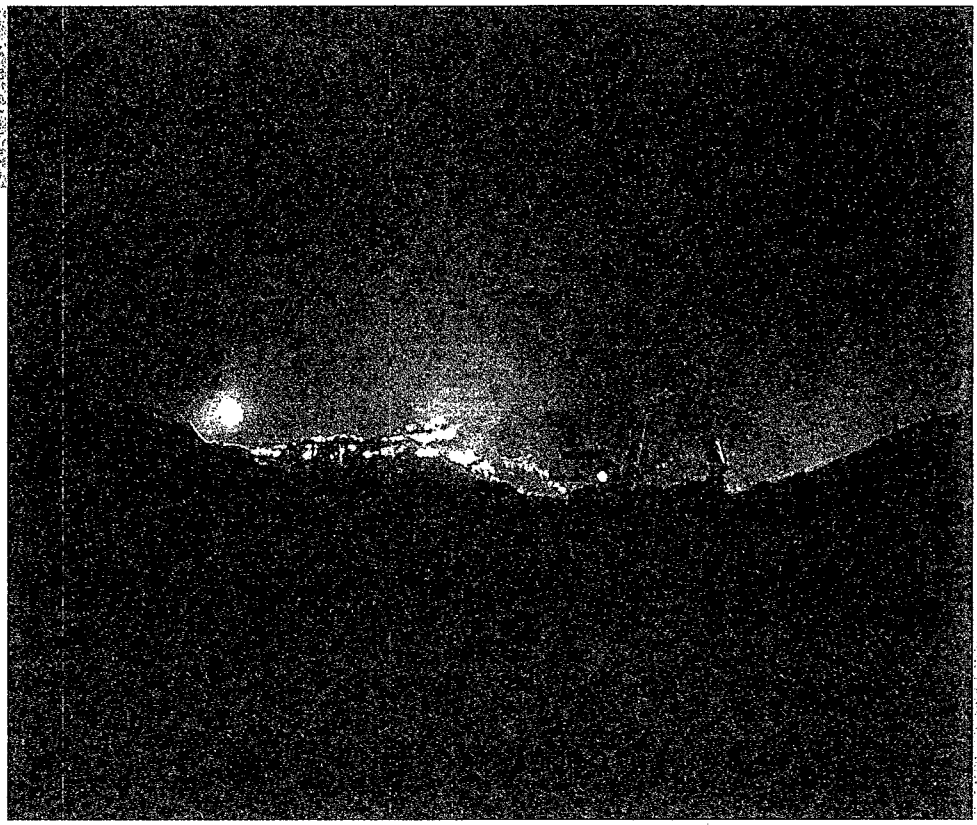


Since 1980, EPA has responded to over 6,000 emergencies across the country.

What Is EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program?

The goal of EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of hazardous substances and oil.

Objectives of the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Program

The program's primary objectives are to:

- *Take reasonable steps to prevent hazardous substance and oil emergencies;*
- *Prepare emergency response personnel at the Federal, state, and local levels for such emergencies; and*
- *Respond quickly and decisively to such emergencies wherever and whenever they occur.*

These threats to the environment vary in size, nature, and location. Chemical fires, explosions, leaking trucks, contaminated drinking water, and toxic fumes are just some of the situations the Emergency Response and Removal Program regularly confronts. The critical element in all cases is time—prompt action is crucial. Since 1980, EPA has responded to over 6,000 hazardous substance and oil emergencies across the country.

The strength of the Emergency Response and Removal Program is its ability to mobilize experts and resources to respond to immediate, critical, hazardous substance and oil threats. In an emergency, EPA specialists can be on the scene within hours. The Emergency Response and Removal Program prevents many deaths and injuries every year by forestalling fires, explosions, or toxic vapor clouds. Early action can prevent the spread of contamination and reduce the need for long-term cleanups.

Not all actions begin under what are commonly thought of as "emergency" conditions. Though events such as tire fires, train derailments, and chemical explosions require immediate action, other less dramatic threats to public health are addressed under EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program. Such threats include the discovery of leaking drums or tanks at an abandoned factory or complaints of tainted drinking water near a landfill. Regardless of the circumstances, quick and efficient cleanup of hazardous material eliminates risks to people and the environment and minimizes the stigma contamination can bring to properties and communities.

How Does the Emergency Response and Removal Program Work?

EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program provides quick responses to immediate threats from hazardous substances and oil, wherever and whenever they occur. The program's first priority is to eliminate any danger to the public—to make sites safe for those who live or work nearby.

Common Contaminants and Their Common Sources

- Lead—Paint pigments, glass manufacturing, smelting (iron and steel production)
- Mercury—Batteries, thermometers, paints, pesticides
- PCBs—Electrical insulation
- Chromium—Copy machines, chrome plating, stainless steel manufacturing
- Trichloroethane & Trichloroethylene—Dry-cleaning agents, degreasers
- Benzene—Chemical manufacturing
- Petroleum Products—Pipeline, tank, or transportation related oil spills

The Threats

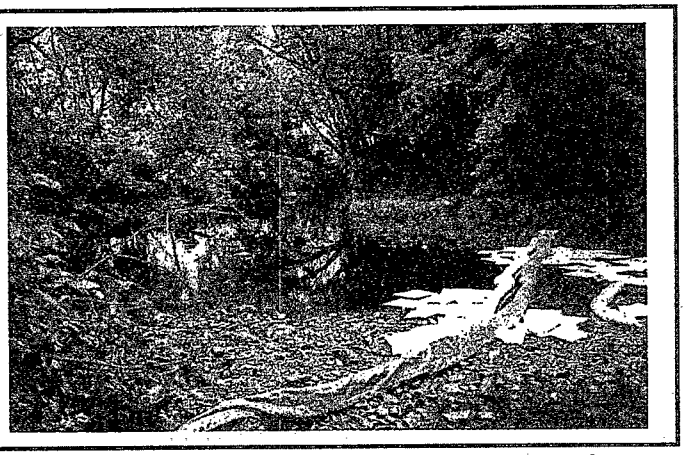
Hazardous substances are all around us—in active and abandoned disposal sites, in trucks and trains, and in industrial production and use. Hazardous substances are found in paints, batteries, dry-cleaning agents, and hundreds of other common industrial and consumer products and processes.

Hazardous substances are all around us—one-fifth of all Americans live within three miles of a site to which EPA has responded.

If these substances get into the environment, they may contaminate our soils, lakes, and rivers, the water we drink, and the air we breathe.

Hazardous substances can irritate the skin or eyes, make it difficult to breathe, or even poison drinking water. Also, they can cause further harm, such as cancer, birth defects, damage to the brain or kidneys, and other medical problems. Negative environmental impacts may include killing all life in a lake or river, or destroying wildlife in the area.

Oil spills injure and kill plants and wildlife and can often upset delicate ecological balances. Such environmental damage can threaten public health and safety by endangering drinking water supplies and ruining commercial and recreational fishing areas.



Between 1980 and 1997, the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Program contained or treated 288 million gallons of polluted water.

The Response — A Program of Action

EPA emergency response and removal actions have eliminated risks to the health and safety of millions of people. One-fifth of all Americans, over 49 million people, live within 3 miles of a site where EPA eliminated immediate threats to public health. Over 850,000 people live less than 500 yards from an emergency response and removal action site.

Emergency Response and Removal Actions May Include:

- *Removing soil or containers containing hazardous substances;*
- *Disposing of and/or treating hazardous substances;*
- *Draining waste ponds or repairing leaky waste disposal pits so that hazardous substances do not seep into the ground;*
- *Using chemicals to stop the spread of the hazardous substance release;*
- *Encasing the hazardous substances in place or otherwise ensuring that winds or rain do not move them around;*
- *Providing a safe supply of drinking water;*
- *Moving residents temporarily while cleanup activities take place; and*
- *Installing fences to prevent direct contact with hazardous substances.*

The need for a response or removal action may arise anywhere, at any time. For example:

- Workers find leaking drums at an abandoned industrial site;
- Neighbors of a landfill notice a foul taste or odor in their drinking water;
- A transportation accident spills chemicals or oil;
- Chemicals stored in a warehouse explode;
- Stored tires ignite, creating hazardous smoke and liquid runoff;
- Passers-by discover illegally dumped chemicals in an abandoned lot;

- An oil or gasoline pipeline ruptures creating a fire and explosion hazard; or
- A natural disaster such as a hurricane, earthquake, or flood ruptures chemical or oil storage tanks.

EPA stands ready 24 hours a day to respond quickly to protect the public and the environment whenever hazardous substances or oil are released. Between 1980 and 1997, the EPA Emergency Response and Removal Program:

- Provided almost 155,000 people, about the population of a city the size of Hartford, Connecticut, with a safe supply of drinking water, using either bottled water or a hook-up to a safe local water system;
- Moved over 26,000 people, more than the number of people who work in the Pentagon—one of the world's largest office buildings—from the vicinity of very dangerous sites and gave them temporary housing until EPA made the site safe;
- Conducted hundreds of oil spill responses per year to protect public health and sensitive ecological systems; and
- Contained or treated massive amounts of waste to make sites safe:
  - Over 7 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris, enough to cover 4,390 acres of land a foot deep;
  - 981 million gallons of contaminated liquids, over 70 gallons for every person in the State of Texas; and
  - 288 million gallons of polluted water, more than twice the daily water use in the State of Vermont.

These accomplishments are at the heart of a program with a solid record of success in reducing and eliminating threats—providing prompt and effective response and removal actions to keep the public and the environment safe.

Emergency response and removal actions involve more than removing hazardous substances and oil from the site and taking them elsewhere for disposal. In a growing number of situations, EPA treats contaminated water or soil rather than move it to someone else's "backyard." New cleanup technologies are being used in EPA's continuing effort to more effectively eliminate threats created by hazardous substances. For example, one technology—bioremediation—involves using bacteria to "eat," or neutralize, the hazardous substances.

Emergency Response and Removal Actions at Long-Term Cleanup Sites

In addition to performing emergency response and removal actions at various sites, EPA conducts long-term cleanup actions at hundreds of seriously contaminated hazardous substance sites. These cases can take several years to fully study the problem, develop the best remedy, and clean up the contamination. These are the sites most people think of when they talk about the Superfund program. EPA does not ignore the possibility, however, that immediate threats to the environment or to people who live or work around such sites may need to be dealt with before the long-term action is complete.

Personal Protective Equipment — Who Needs It? Who Doesn't?

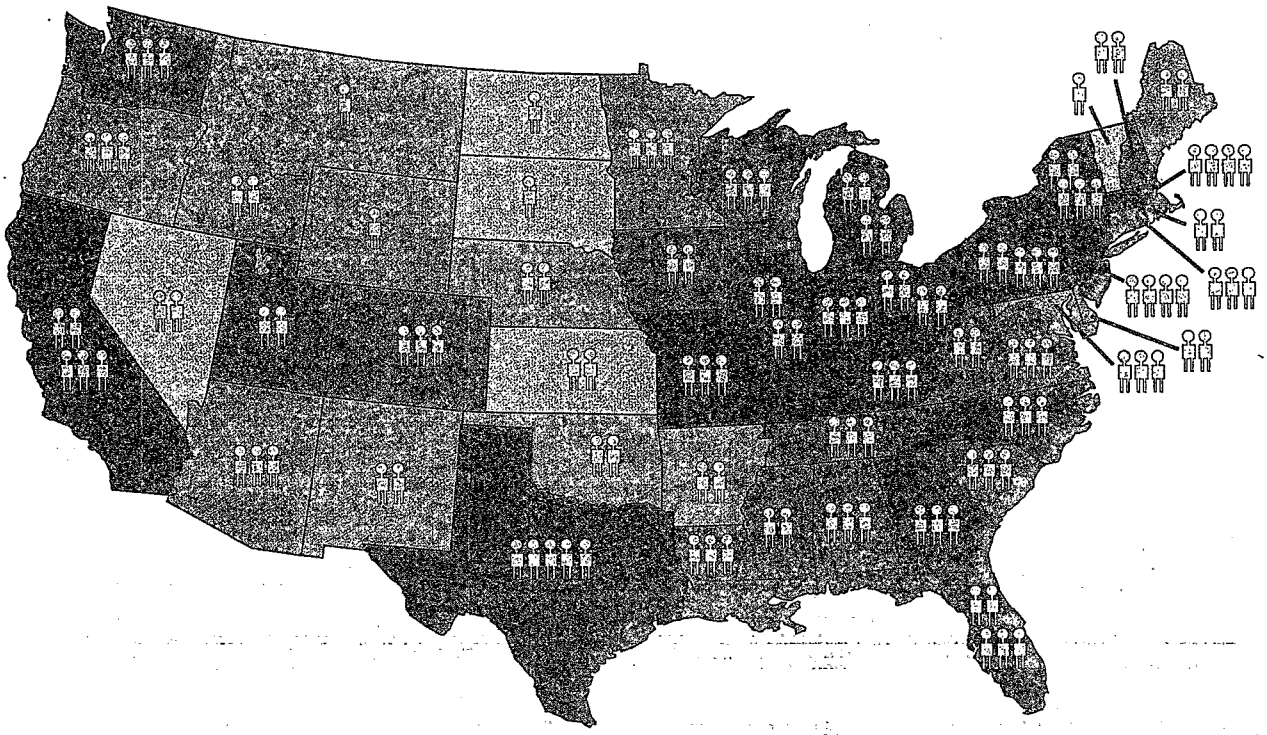
Responding to hazardous substance emergencies places response personnel at risk because of the hands-on nature of their work. For this reason, response personnel must wear appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment. This gear, which can include a full body suit with breathing apparatus, gloves, and boots, prevents workers from accidentally breathing or touching any hazardous substance.

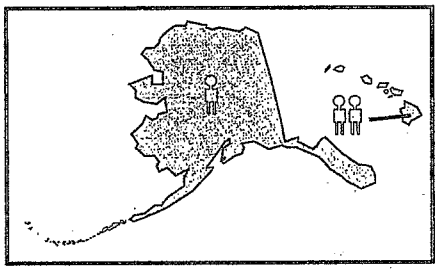
EPA also protects the local community by establishing safety zones, which are like rings surrounding the site. To enter a zone that is highly contaminated, whether you are an EPA employee or a member of the local community, you must wear protective equipment. Outside of these zones, such equipment is not considered necessary.

Response personnel put on protective equipment before entering a contaminated area.

Within three months of identifying a long-term cleanup site, EPA evaluates whether there are any immediate threats. If there are, an emergency response or removal action is taken. EPA then reevaluates the long-term cleanup site at least once every year until cleanup is complete to make sure no new immediate threats arise. In this review, EPA pays particular attention to sites that may be susceptible to damage from harsh weather conditions, facility deterioration, or vandalism. If new, immediate threats arise, an emergency response or removal action is taken.

SUPERFUND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL ACTIONS HAVE REDUCED HEALTH THREATS TO MILLIONS OF AMERICANS





Population Safeguarded*

	0<500,000
	500,000<2,000,000
	2,000,000<5,000,000
	5,000,000<10,000,000
	10,000,000+

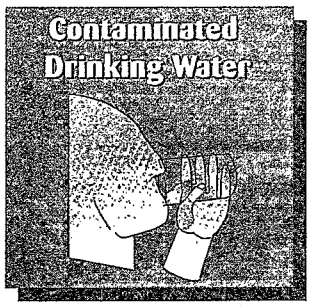
Number of Sites*

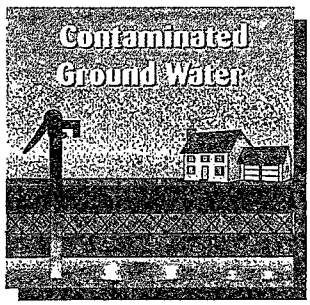
0-19
20-49
50-99
100+

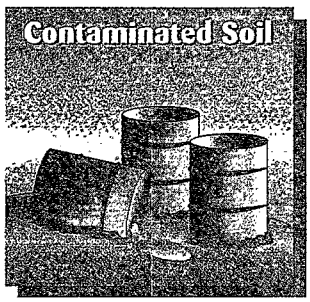
Population Safeguarded is defined as the total population of all counties where emergency response actions have been taken.

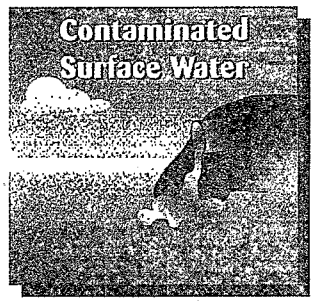
1980-June 2000*

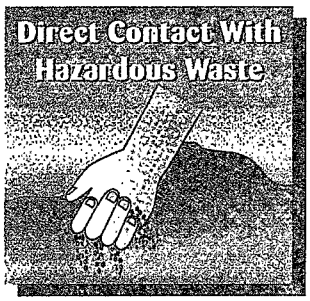
SOURCES OF EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

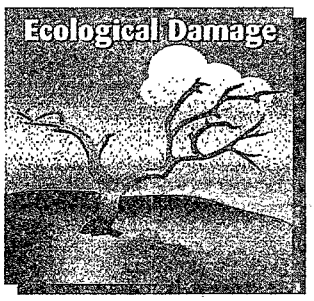


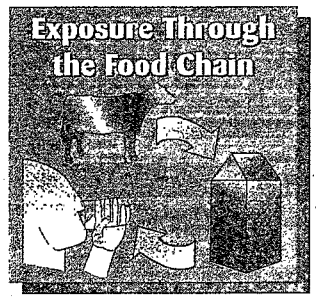










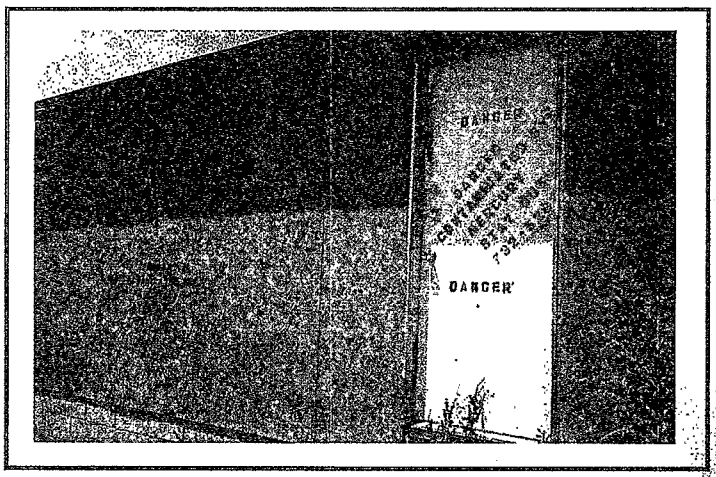


Case Study: Kirby Tire Fire

At 11:00 a.m. on August 21, 1999, an EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) arrived at a tire fire that had been blazing in Sycamore, Ohio, since it was discovered by security guards at 2:00 a.m. Kirby Tire Recycling, Inc. operated one of the largest tire piles in the United States, with an estimated 20 million tires across 120 acres. Since 1993, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Wyandot County Health Department had been working with the firm to bring the site into compliance with Ohio's solid waste regulations. In 1998 the facility was closed until tires were removed and fire lanes could be created. Unfortunately, a large, fire struck before those actions were completed. Twenty-one local fire departments and many local citizens responded to the fire. Residents with respiratory disorders and young children were cautioned to stay indoors and close their windows, and to avoid contact with water from nearby Sycamore Creek until it could be tested.

When EPA Emergency Response Personnel arrived, they brought in additional heavy equipment and operators. Using more than 27,000 tons of sand and soil, and 60 pieces of heavy equipment, EPA and local contractors worked together to bury the burning tires and isolate them from the main pile. By 6:00 p.m. August 25, 1999, the fire area was completely covered and officials turned their attention to the fire's side effects. The melting tires had caused two releases of oil into Sycamore Creek, killing thousands of fish along the creek's seven and one-half-mile length. The oil had lowered oxygen levels in the water, causing the fish kill; consequently, EPA and Ohio EPA set up "bubblers" in the creek to raise the oxygen levels. In addition, other runoff from the fire was collected in a pit west of the fire, and EPA set up a water treatment system to decontaminate the water before it entered the creek.

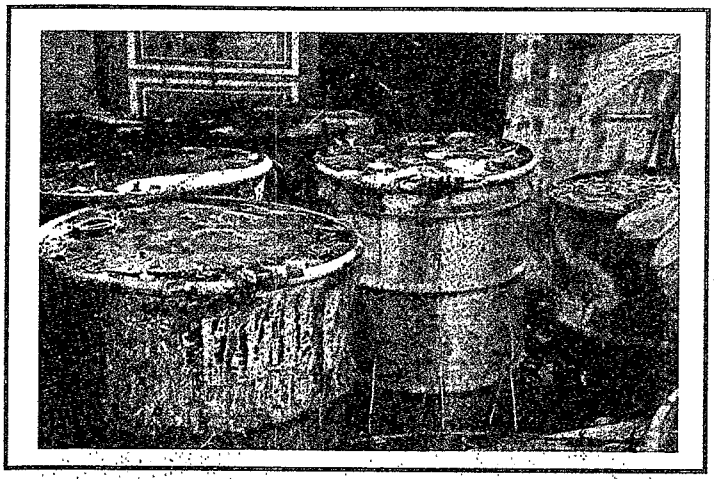
On September 14, 1999, EPA completed covering the fire area with a one-foot clay cap, to smother any smoldering tires and to minimize any oily runoff by limiting the amount of water that would soak through the burned area. In addition, a representative from EPA's Public Affairs Department visited nearby homes, updating residents on the cleanup and following up on damage done to personal properties, such as crops. EPA, in conjunction with local and state response personnel, managed to put out one of the largest tire fires in the United States in only five days, minimizing environmental damage and effects on human health.



Case Study: Mercury Contamination

What began as innocent curiosity in the small town of Springfield, Ohio, in October 1997, quickly became one of the largest residential mercury cleanups ever handled by EPA's emergency response and removal program. Tempted by a dare, a group of children sneaked into a warehouse abandoned by a metal recycling company. But their mischief soon became dangerous after they found a bucket filled with mercury, also known as quicksilver. Mercury is a heavy metal that is very dangerous to people if they swallow it or breathe its vapors. After playing with the silvery liquid, the children filled plastic soda bottles with it and brought them home. Fortunately, one of the parents called the police, which launched local, state, and national emergency personnel into action.

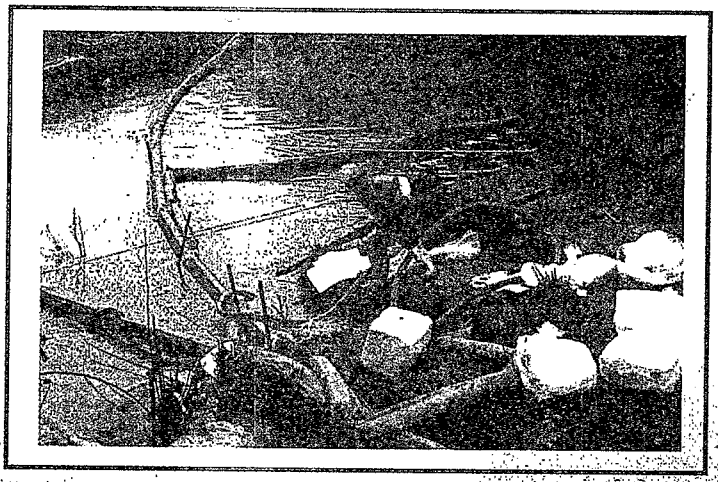
Relying on their extensive emergency response experience, EPA's responders immediately organized a task force of all the agencies involved and worked quickly to determine the extent of the problem. The Springfield police and fire departments, local and state health departments, the American Red Cross, and the Ohio EPA supported EPA with the resulting cleanup, which lasted about a month. Health and environmental workers checked 38 homes as well as the children's school and tested 140 people to determine their extent of exposure. Two boys required medication to clear the dangerous levels of mercury out of their systems. As a result of the homes check, EPA temporarily evacuated 69 people from 16 homes that were highly contaminated. EPA crews then removed contaminated items such as food, clothes, furniture, and carpets and cleaned the homes with a special solution. In three of the more severely contaminated homes, EPA also removed and replaced the flooring. Some of the neighborhood sidewalks and yards also had to be dug up and replaced. The Ohio EPA took charge of cleaning the warehouse site and the city of Springfield boarded up the building and installed new fencing. In the end, 200 pounds of mercury was recovered. Today, a Springfield community's environment is cleaner and safer as a result of the quick and efficient response from all of the agencies.



Case Study: Great Lakes Container Corporation

EPA's emergency cleanup actions finally brought a long history of contamination to an end at the Great Lakes Container site in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. In October 1995, an 11-alarm fire at the facility alerted officials to the situation and prompted several environmental investigations. From 1949 until it was abandoned in 1985, various owners used the 11-acre site as a drum reclamation business. The Great Lakes Container Corporation, which owned the site from 1975 until 1985, accepted used 55-gallon steel drums from all over the country and cleaned and repainted as many as 2,500 a day. Hazardous waste, including solvents, pesticides, and paints, were spilled and dumped throughout the site. Hundreds of drums were illegally buried on site instead of being disposed of properly. When the company left, the site became an illegal dumping ground for trash, tires, and hazardous debris. The fire started when a stolen car was set ablaze, igniting the main processing building.

After responding to the fire, EPA personnel discovered that the site was severely contaminated with asbestos, lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and other hazardous substances. In addition, the basement of the processing building was filled with thousands of gallons of contaminated water and sludge. The cleanup, which marked EPA's 5,000th removal action, began in September 1997. It was completed just one year later. EPA excavated and removed 61,000 tons of contaminated soil, uncovered and removed 680 drums of hazardous substances, decontaminated or demolished buildings and tanks, and treated and discharged 560,000 gallons of contaminated water. The contaminated soils were shipped off site to be disposed of properly, and the excavated areas were backfilled with clean soil. The St. Louis Development Corporation and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District now own the newly restored property, which can be reused for other industrial purposes in the future.



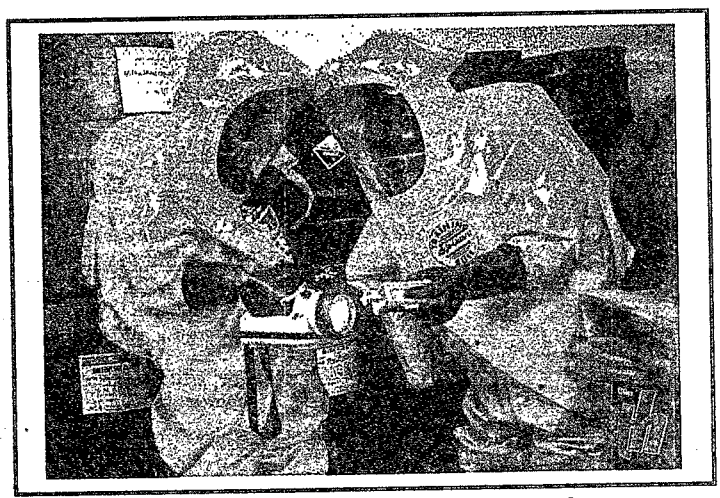
Case Study: Colonial Pipeline Oil Spill

On March 28, 1993, an oil pipeline in Fairfax County, Virginia, ruptured sending a 100-foot plume of fuel oil into the air. The high-pressure pipeline, owned by the Colonial Pipeline Company, released an estimated 477,436 gallons of oil into the environment before it could be shut down and fully drained. One of the largest inland oil spills in recent history, the oil affected nine miles of the nearby Sugarland Run Creek as well as the Potomac River.

The Fairfax County Fire Department conducted the initial response to the release, quickly notifying the National Response Center (NRC). The Federal response was initiated by the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) from EPA. The OSC received support in the form of personnel and equipment from other Federal agencies, primarily the U.S. Coast Guard. State officials provided technical support and information. The Regional Response Team (RRT), a group of representatives from a variety of Federal agencies, provided valuable advice and guidance regarding recovery actions and policy questions that arose during the incident.

Colonial Pipeline carried out its duties as the responsible party, hiring contractors to contain the oil and perform recovery actions. Under the direction of EPA, contractors secured the source of the release by shutting down the pipeline. They then attempted to contain the oil flow along the creek using booms, but a sheen had already developed on the Potomac River. As a precaution to protect public health, water intakes along the Potomac River were closed. Recovery of the oil involved the use of skimmers, vacuum trucks, sorbents, and a temporary pipeline to direct recovered oil into tanker trucks. Through these actions, response personnel recovered 372,498 gallons of spilled oil within 13 days of the release.

A long-term cleanup site may entail several emergency response and removal actions, or none. In some cases, emergency response and removal actions may eliminate the need for any additional cleanup at certain portions of a site. As a result, emergency response and removal actions often speed the final cleanup of the site and may lead to early elimination of the site from EPA's long-term cleanup program.



Full body suits keep response workers safe from hazardous substances.

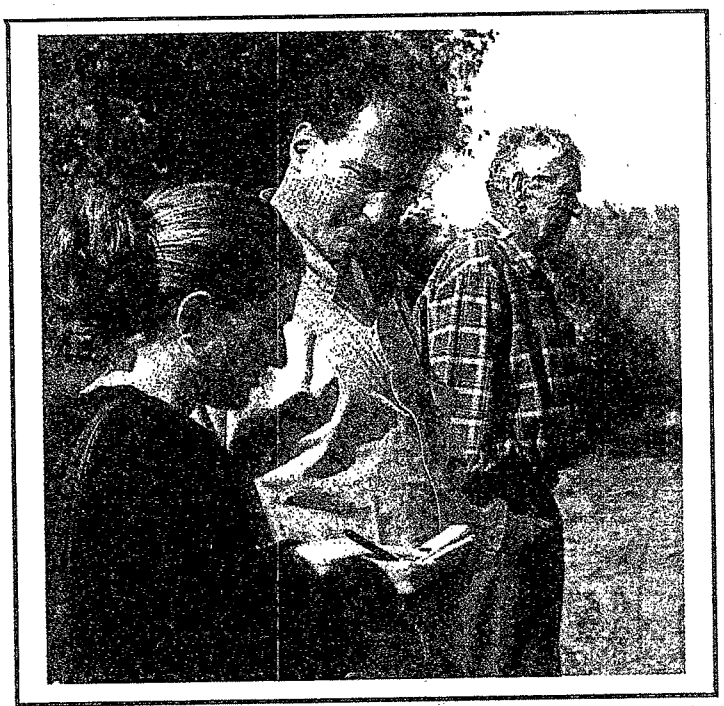
Who Cleans Up?

Since the beginning of EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program, EPA has conducted approximately 70 percent of more than 6,000 actions taken. Other Federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard and state departments of environmental protection, conducted five percent of the actions. The remaining 25 percent of the responses were undertaken by those parties responsible for the pollution, with EPA monitoring the cleanups. EPA acts in an oversight capacity to ensure that all studies and work performed by the potentially responsible party meet EPA cleanup requirements. EPA then can be certain that, regardless of who undertakes the response action, the immediate threat to public health and the environment is alleviated.

Each time potentially responsible parties undertake emergency response and removal actions, Federal cleanup funds are saved. Cleanup funds can then be used to fund other needed response actions.

Community Involvement Is Essential

EPA recognizes that an emergency response or removal action can significantly impact a local community and the lives of its residents. EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is committed to helping citizens learn about the nature of the



Community involvement is essential during emergency response and removal actions.

emergency by providing critical, timely information. EPA appoints a spokesperson for each emergency response to keep the public informed and to respond to any questions. This spokesperson calls meetings with people in the community, responds to inquiries from the media, and provides local officials with site status information. EPA also establishes a written record on the emergency response that is available to the public.

Be Informed, Be Involved

- *Attend community information sessions*
- *Contact the regional spokesperson*
- *Organize a community advisory group*
- *Access the Technical Outreach Services for Communities program*
- *Look up the Superfund Web site http://www.epa.gov/superfund*
- *Contact your Regional Community Involvement Coordinator*

Region 1
CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT
(617) 918-1064
(888) 372-7341*

Region 2
NJ, NY, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
(212) 637-3675
(800) 346-5009*

Region 3
DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV
(215) 814-5131
(800) 553-2509*

Region 4
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN
(404) 562-9947
(800) 564-7577

Region 5
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
(312) 353-2072
(800) 621-8431*

Region 6
AR, LA, NM, OK, TX
(214) 665-8157
(800) 533-3508*

Region 7
IA, KS, MO, NE
(913) 551-7003
(800) 223-0425*

Region 8
CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY
(303) 312-6312
(800) 227-8917*

Region 9
AZ, CA, HI, NV, U.S. Territories
(415) 744-2178
(800) 231-3075*

Region 10
AK, ID, OR, WA
(206) 553-1352
(800) 424-4372*

** 800 and 888 numbers work only within the Region except for Region 4*

Cooperation with local residents can expedite the cleanup process and improve solutions. Community members can assist cleanup efforts by contributing information about the site's history and contamination. They can also become involved by organizing a Community Advisory Group to serve as a liaison between the community and EPA, and by accessing the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program to help understand emergency response activities. Good communication and community involvement helps avoid misunderstandings and confusion between the response team and local community members during an emergency response.

Who Pays?

EPA's goal is to make the responsible parties clean up their own hazardous substances. However, in an emergency situation, when those responsible cannot be found, or when they will not cooperate, EPA responds without delay. EPA gets the money to respond to hazardous substance releases from the Superfund Trust Fund. Funds for oil responses come from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

State and Local Governments Get Involved in Emergency Response and Removal Actions

The first responders at the scene of an emergency response action are usually firefighters or state or local police. They are the first to assess the situation and take emergency measures such as fighting a fire, securing the area, or rerouting traffic. Their assessment and initial activities help the EPA On-Scene Coordinator determine what EPA actions are necessary.

On-Scene Coordinators

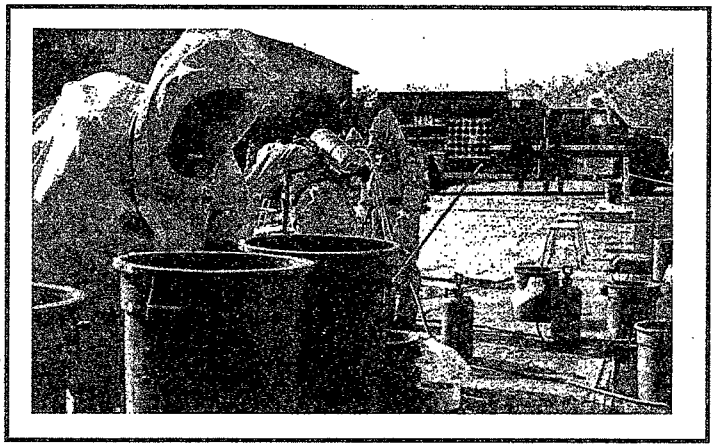
The key player during an EPA emergency response and removal action is the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). OSCs are highly skilled men and women who conduct, direct, and coordinate emergency response and removal actions—to take whatever actions are necessary, consistent with Federal law, to remove the threat.

In every area of the country, OSCs are on-call and ready to respond to hazardous substance releases and oil discharges 24 hours a day. When a release is discovered or reported, the OSC evaluates the situation and, if the OSC determines a Federal response action is necessary, he or she works with state and local response teams, local police and firefighters, or other Federal agencies to eliminate the danger. The OSC also will ensure that the public and business community are kept informed and that their concerns are considered throughout the response action.

EPA supports direct state and local government involvement in response efforts through financial and technical assistance, as well as numerous training opportunities. Hundreds of local responders attend EPA hazardous materials response training courses each year. This assistance enhances the ability of local governments to successfully undertake emergency actions to reduce or eliminate risks to public health and to protect the environment.

Local Government Reimbursement

EPA helps local governments pay for emergency responses to hazardous substance releases. Funds for such actions may be beyond those the community normally budgets for emergency response. EPA has provided over $2 million to over 230 local governments through EPA's Local Governments Reimbursement Program. Any general purpose unit of city, county, or municipal government, or an Indian tribe may apply for money from this program. Reimbursable response costs may include efforts to suppress a fire or putting up a security fence around a site to keep people away. The local government must first attempt to recover the cost of the response from the party responsible for the hazardous substance release. If this fails, the local government may be reimbursed by EPA up to $25,000 for each action. Discharges of oil are not covered unless the oil is mixed with a hazardous substance.

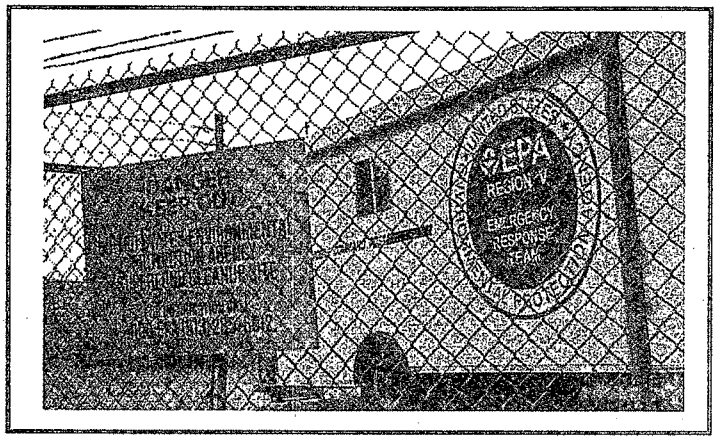


Response workers practice with equipment used during cleanup actions.

Expert Help Is Always Available — The Environmental Response Team

Another vital force in EPA's efforts to eliminate hazardous substance and oil threats is the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT). The ERT is a group of EPA technical experts who can provide around-the-clock assistance at the scene of hazardous substance and oil releases. Sometimes, when an EPA OSC or any other emergency responder

comes to the scene of a hazardous substance or oil release, he or she knows immediately that extra technical help is needed. The ERT can provide specialized air monitoring equipment, hazard assessment, and expert evaluation and implementation of cleanup technologies. The ERT has provided expert technical assistance for responses to hazardous substance releases in other countries, including Kuwait, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Latvia, and Mozambique.



The Environmental Response Team provides technical assistance at Superfund cleanup sites.

Environmental Response Team Training

Another key function of the ERT is emergency responder training. Each year close to 6,000 students from Federal agencies, state, and local emergency response teams, and private industry enroll in EPA's Hazardous Materials Incident Response Training program. The courses cover safety in handling hazardous substances, as well as technical methods used to identify, evaluate, and control hazardous substances that have been or could be released. Emphasis is placed on the practical application of lecture material through problem-solving, case studies, and field exercises. These courses are offered at different locations around the country.

To Report a Spill ...

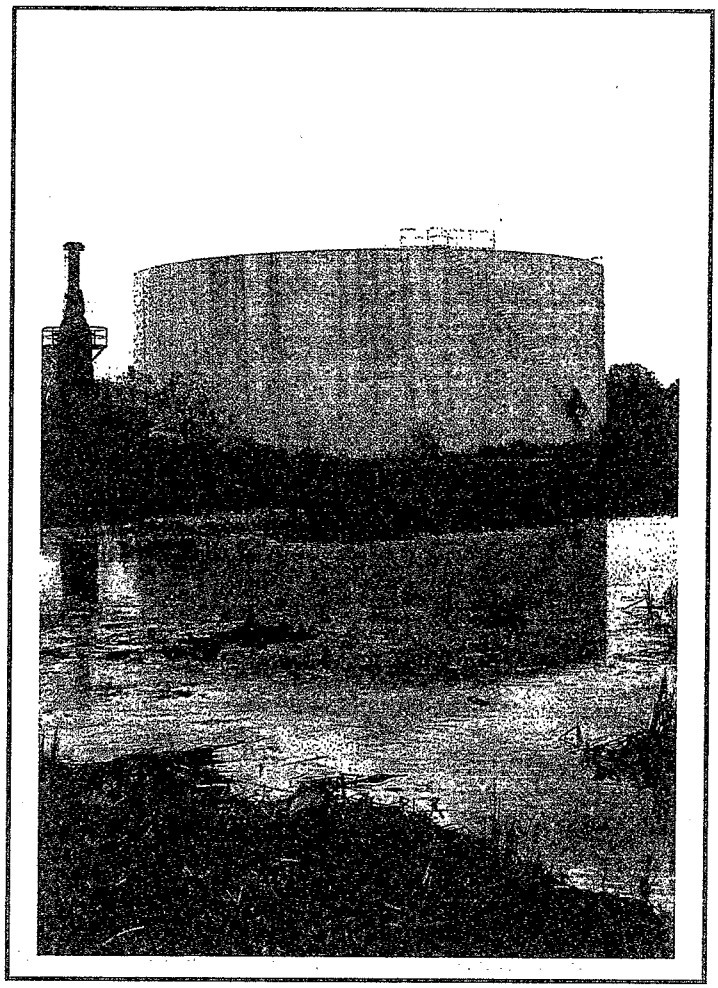
The National Response Center (NRC) is the Federal government's national communications center for hazardous substance and oil release reporting. The NRC is staffed 24 hours a day by U.S. Coast Guard officers and marine science technicians. The NRC receives all reports of releases of hazardous substances and oil, activating the National Contingency Plan and the Federal government's response capabilities. It is the responsibility of the NRC staff to notify the On-Scene Coordinator assigned to the area of the incident and to collect available information on the size and nature of the release, the facility or vessel involved, and the

party responsible for the release. The NRC maintains reports of all releases and spills in a national database. To report an oil or hazardous substance spill, call the NRC at (800)424-8802. Visit the National Response Center Web page at: *http://www.nrc.uscg.mil*

For More Information ...

EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program has acted quickly and decisively (for over two decades), to protect public health and the environment from immediate threats. The broad range of emergencies that EPA must respond to will never be completely eliminated. Thus EPA stands ready to use its emergency response and removal authorities to their fullest extent, today and in the future, to continue to eliminate threats to human health and the environment. For more information and additional copies of this document, call the Superfund Hotline at (800) 424-9346.

Additional information about EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program can be found on the Internet at the following addresses:



Over 850,000 people live less than 500 yards from an emergency response and removal action site.

Superfund—*http://www.epa.gov/superfund*

ERT—*http://www.epa.gov/programs/ert*

Oil—*http://www.epa.gov/oilspill*

EPA cleanup work under way

Rural Dixon site contains dioxin, PCBs

Clark Kelly
Telegraph Staff Writer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun cleanup of the former Johnson Wrecking site on Sink Hollow Road northeast of Dixon. The site is approximately 12 acres and work at the site before the U.S. EPA became involved included salvage, smelting and incineration operations.

On Scene Coordinator Callie Bolattino said the team expects to finish the work on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Ginny Narsete, the U.S. EPA's community involvement spokesman, said the emergency response team is designed to respond to locations deemed hazardous to human health.

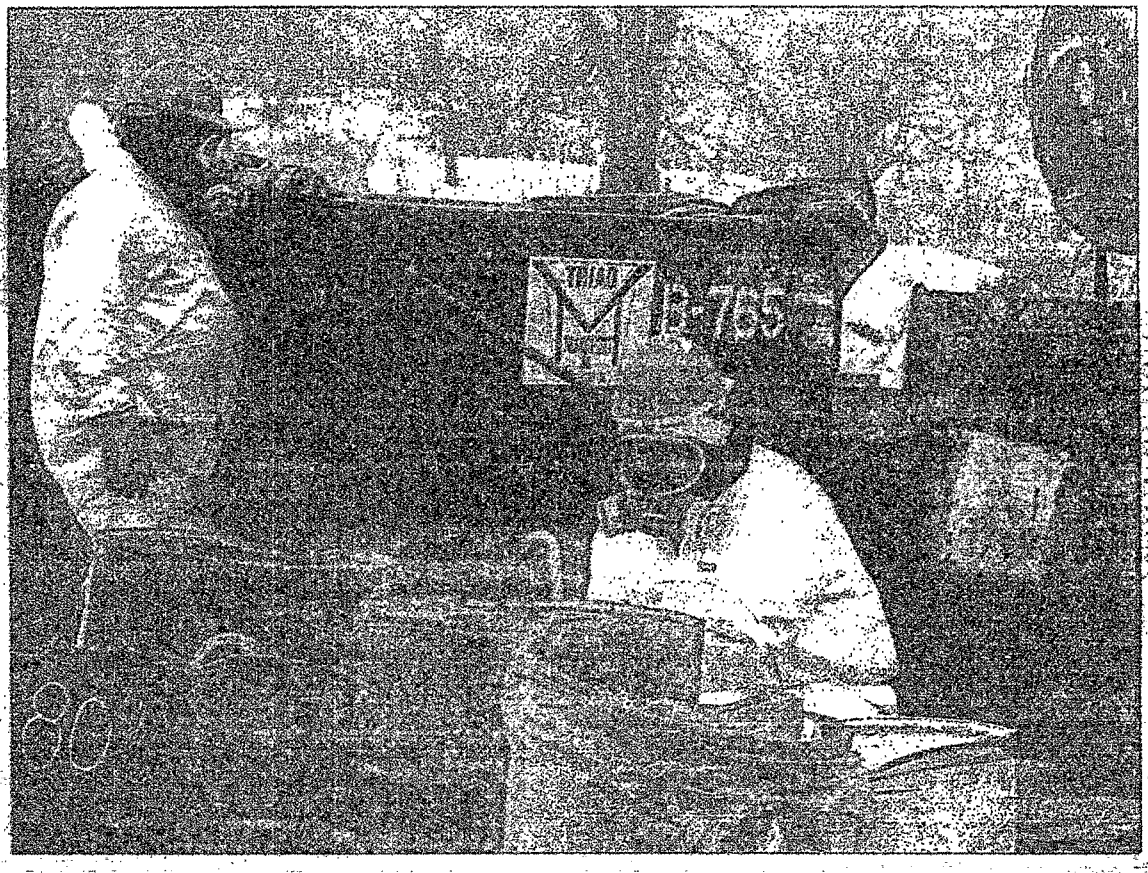
The Illinois EPA turned the work over to the U.S. team after getting a report of 120,000 abandoned tires at the site. The IEPA's reason for turning it over to the federal agency was the discovery of abandoned drums containing incinerator ash. The site also contained dioxin, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chromium and lead.

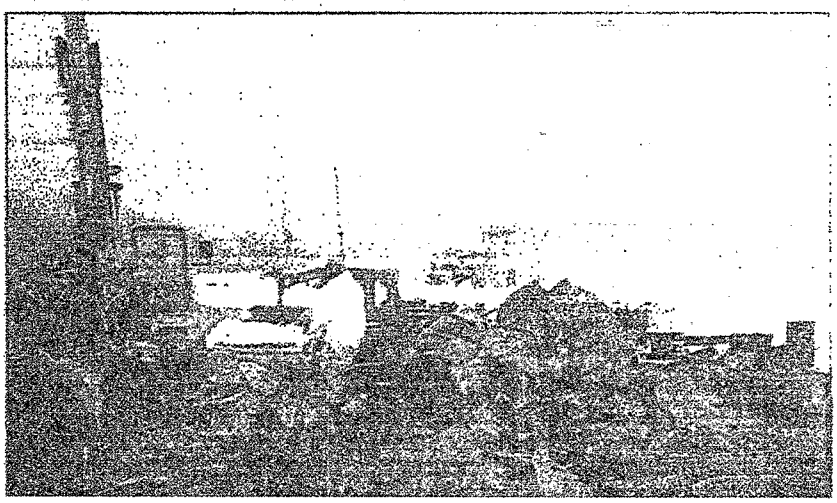
The tires are gone. They were cleaned up by the IEPA before the U.S. EPA came to the site, Bolattino said.

According to Narsete, there is no ground water contamination, but some of the barrels have deteriorated from years of exposure to the elements.

Bolattino said the group worked at the site for four days in December to gather the barrels from various locations on site and removed some asbestos material from a barn.

Since Tuesday, the material has





Mark Sauer / Sauk Valley Newspapers

Crews from the United States Environmental Protection Agency donned protective clothing as they worked to clean up hazardous material from an abandoned junkyard on Stoney Point Road northeast of Dixon Thursday. The form Johnson Wrecking contained deterior steel barrels of to that had to be col and shipped to a